

*The following Material
taken from:*

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

A Centennial History of Wasatch County



COMPILED AND EDITED BY
WM. JAMES MORTIMER

PUBLISHED BY
WASATCH COUNTY CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

1963

He then recorded in his notes the surveying work done through June 23, 1888 in which he adjusted the city to true measurements.

By 1889 Heber was ready for organization as a township, and Henry Aird was appointed as the first town board president. He served until 1894 when Thomas Huskinson Giles was elected and served two years. James W. Clyde was elected in 1896 and served until the election of Edward D. Clyde in 1898. Robert Duke followed in 1900 and served until 1902 when articles of incorporation were drawn up and the town became an officially incorporated city.

James W. Clyde was elected as the city's first mayor, with membership of the new city council form of government consisting of Joseph Hatch, E. J. Cummings, David C. Hanks, George A. Wootton and Joseph A. Murdock.

An early action by the mayor and city council consisted of calling for bids to run the sprinkling wagon through the city on dusty summer days. Bidders and their prices per day included Ed Tilt, \$2.80; Bert Tilt, \$2.50; J. C. Murdock, \$2.40; Harmon Cummings, \$2.50; Walter Wickham, \$2.25 and John Carlile, \$2.48.

The council acted on the "lowest qualified bid" and hired Mr. Wickham to sprinkle the streets.

In the election of November, 1903, candidates aligned themselves with the Democratic and Republican political parties, and the Democrats won a sweeping community victory.

The new city officials were Joseph A. Rasband, mayor; John T. Giles, four-year councilman; Joseph R. Murdock, A. B. Murdock, Orson Ryan and F. L. Clegg, two-year councilmen; David W. Hicken, marshal; LaVina Murdock, recorder; George Barzee, treasurer and Livingston Montgomery, justice of the peace.

In May of 1905 the city officials promoted a bond election to raise \$40,000 for the purpose of installing a water system. By 1905 the city council was able to pass the following ordinance:

"That a water works system be constructed to supply its inhabitants with water and shall be known and designated as Heber City Water Works. The said system shall be the property of said city."

Early the following spring, work was underway to complete the system. The main source of supply was the Broadhead Spring, east of the city.

Heber's third mayor was elected in the fall of 1905 and served during 1906 and 1907. He was Joseph R. Murdock. Serving with him on the city council were David Fisher, John T. Giles, Robert Duke, Joseph E. D. Tomlinson and John E. Moulton. Joseph A. Murdock was recorder with Moroni Moulton, treasurer; David W. Hicken, marshal and Fred L. Clegg, justice of the peace.

A significant cultural step was taken by Mayor Murdock in Novem-

ber, 1907 when \$500 was appropriated for the establishment of a public library and community reading room.

The city council considered several possible locations for the library, including rooms above Jeff's store, the old Turner Hall and store, Buell's Hall and upstairs rooms in the new Heber Mercantile building. After considerable discussion the council moved that the two rooms above the Mercantile Company be rented for \$10 per month. This library was later consolidated with county facilities.

By January, 1908, Mayor James W. Clyde, the city's fourth chief executive, had been elected and sworn into office. Elected to serve with him as city councilmen were John E. Moulton, four-year term and David Fisher, John W. Crook, William T. Wootton and Robert Duke, two-year terms. Joseph A. Murdock continued as recorder, with Royal J. Murdock as treasurer and Andrew Lindsay as marshal.

During Mayor Clyde's term the need for electric power was being felt in the community. Other locations in the state had obtained electricity, and many Heber residents desired the convenience and service of this new power source.

It seemed natural that the city government should take the lead in building power facilities, and on September 20, 1908 members of the Heber Commercial Club proposed to the council that the city construct a power plant on property north of Heber. They estimated that the project would cost about \$50,000.

Mayor Clyde and the council received the proposition favorably and began immediate action to select a suitable site. Three possible locations were selected, and finally ten acres owned by the Hatch family north of town were purchased for \$2,000 and the project was on its way.

At a council meeting on October 14, 1908, the communities of Midway and Charleston were asked to join in building the proposed power plant, with Midway to own one-fourth interest and Charleston one-eighth. Wallsburg was also invited to participate to the extent of its needs but they secured their power from another source. At this same meeting a bond election to finance the construction was fixed for December 29, 1908. The citizens were to be asked to approve bonding for \$32,000.

In the meantime, the council hired George A. Wootton on November 16, 1908, to be general supervisor of the plant at a salary of \$100 per month, with Mr. Wootton to furnish his own horse and buggy and feed for the horse.

The December bond election was nearly unanimous, with only eight of the 120 voters who went to the polls casting negative ballots. The new plant was assured, and the council selected the name "Heber Light and Power Plant" as the official name of the new venture. Also named was an executive committee to manage the plant. Chosen for the committee were Mayor Clyde, Councilmen Moulton and Duke of Heber, Attewall Wootton Sr. of Midway and John O. Edwards of Charleston.



Adolphus R. Duke.
Center - Daniels mail
carrier for 34 years.

The first official postmaster, John Gallagher, was appointed in 1870 and served faithfully for several years. Helping carry the mail around 1870 were Joseph Stacey Murdock, who had a contract to haul mail from Provo to Echo by way of Heber and Kamas twice a week, winter and summer. Mose Cluff also carried mail for some time.

Succeeding Mr. Gallagher as Heber postmaster was Henry McMullin, Sr., who operated the post office in a room of his hotel where Ashton's Store now stands. The next postmaster was John Duncan, who was succeeded by Richard Bridge. Stage coach operations were begun about this time, and mail service was facilitated by daily stage runs



Lawrence B. Duke,
rural route mail car-
rier for over 30 years.

appointed Roy D. Moulton as the first chief of police. The force included four policemen in addition to the chief, and with a radio equipped car they provided 24-hour protection. Lowell Thacker succeeded Mr. Moulton as chief, but held office only a short time before appointment of the present chief, Ferris Clegg.

Mayor Jaicoletti also expanded the city's water storage system, which was first constructed in 1905 under the direction of Mayor Joseph A. Rasband. The system was expanded to 1.5 million gallons of storage in 1952 and a chlorination purification plant was built to insure a pure supply of water for the community.

By 1953 Mayor Jaicoletti had begun a complete installation of sewage disposal lines in the city and the construction of a full treatment plant at a cost of \$325,000. Heber was the second of Utah's third class cities to install such a system.

Because the streets were almost completely torn up with the construction of the new sewer system the mayor began a complete resurfacing program and by 1955 the more than 21 miles of city streets had been resurfaced.


The city ball park was lighted in 1953 to accommodate night events, and in that year a new pumper was also purchased for the city fire department along with a portable first aid unit including two resuscitators.

The Wasatch County Youth Coordinating Council was established in 1953 through the cooperation of Ferrin Van Wagoner, superintendent of county schools. Then in 1954 the Little League Baseball Diamond was constructed with a complete water system for the grass.

Curb and guttering was extended along Main Street to the city limits on the south and to Sixth North, as well as along west First South.

Another pumper fire engine was purchased in 1955 at a cost of \$25,393.00, making the Heber valley department one of the best fire fighting units in the state.

Many other improvements have been made by Mayor Jaicoletti to add to the beauty of the city and to facilitate the services of city government to the people of the community.



Still another feature of governmental service in the community has been the post office. John W. Witt, who operated a small store in the northwest part of Heber, was the community's first postmaster, though he was never officially commissioned by the government. He would receive letters from Provo and Salt Lake, and hold them in his store until patrons called for them.

Organized mail service from the "outside world" was begun in 1862 when Isaac O. Wall began carrying mail on horseback during the summer months. No service was provided during the winter. In Spring months when high water in Provo River made it impossible for horses to cross, Mr. Wall extended a cable from trees on either side of the river and transferred mail pouches with the rider from Provo.

to Park City. Joseph S. Murdock and his sons; E. J. Duke, John H. Luke and A. C. Hatch operated some of the lines.

Among the fine inspiring traditions in this country of ours is the thrilling slogan: "The mail must go through." It may have been born during the exciting days of the pony express when fearless men risked their lives each day and night. Wherever or however it was born, certainly no finer chapter in the annals of U.S. mail history can be found than that recorded in the almost lifelong service of our fellow townsman, Elisha J. Duke, known and respected throughout the state as "Lishe."

Over fifty years ago a boy in his teens tightened the lines across the back of a freight team and made his first trip from Heber to Park City. James A. Garfield was president then. There wasn't even a telephone connecting Wasatch county which then extended eastward to the Colorado line, with the outside world. What were then called roads would be now termed cow trails. But from that day that same youth now seventy-six years young, has almost daily traveled this route. Thirty-seven years ago President McKinley designated him official mail carrier between Heber and Park City. Of course, that brought better equipment consisting of a string of horses, better adapted to speed and behind them "Lishe" mounted the then famous "white top" mountain road wagon leaving daily on the hour with its load of mail and passengers bound for Park City. With the coming of the railroad, progress seemed to dictate that the mail be brought in by the more modern method of rail delivery. But when it became apparent that mail out of Salt Lake City required a couple of days to reach here, it began to look as if the old method was best after all. Many old-timers still recall the expressions of sympathy that went out to "Lishe" as they watched his caravan of teams pull up legweary and mud-covered to discharge their stacked-up cargo of mail and post that had accumulated because of the always inevitable "snow-slide in Provo Canyon" which except for his faithful adherence to duty would have cut this valley off from communication for weeks at a time. The irony of the situation can be better understood when it is known that for this re-routed mail and post he got little additional pay. Perhaps the most grueling experience in his long career came in February, 1917 when five teams and fifteen men over a period of three days battled to hold aloft that banner—"the mail must go through." Many a winter night new kerosene was added to the family lamp to wait and see if "Lishe" Duke had got in with the mail.

Ripley might well observe that this dependable servant of Uncle Sam and the people of his capacity as mail carrier has traveled each season more miles than is necessary to encircle the globe; he got the mail through if he had to do it on snowshoes or transfer from sleigh to wagon; he has pounded down to their last rattle fourteen model T Fords to say nothing of diverse makes of other cars which have gone to the scrap heap under this relentless grilling; he has never had an accident! never had a vacation; and today at seventy-six you set your clock with the time of his departure or arrival. Maybe the fine mail service we enjoy today per-

mitting a letter to be written, mailed, answered and returned from Salt Lake City in less than 24 hours can be chalked up in part to the credit of "Lishe" Duke who will be gratefully remembered by the people of this county as the man who saw that "the mail must go through."

When the railroad came to Heber in 1899 the Denver & Rio Grande received the mail contract on a daily basis. Fred Hayes was postmaster for a short time and then was followed by John A. Smith who served until March 1, 1915. Dan McMillan was appointed next and served until November 1, 1920. Guy Duke, a veteran of World War I was then appointed and served until December of 1922 when Jay Jensen was appointed. Maranda Smith took office as postmistress on December 18, 1923 and served until February 19, 1936, when the present postmaster, Heber M. Rasband, took office.

Star route carriers during the years have been E. J. Duke who served for more than 40 years, Elijah Davis, John Wall, Willard Davis, Ben Murdock, Jay Cummings and Stacey Wright. Rural carriers who served for more than 30 years each included Lawrence B. Duke, Adolphia R. Duke, and Max Lee.

City postal delivery was established in Heber November 1, 1946, and carriers appointed at that time were Jay O. Johnson, Ray Wright, Bert Lindsay and Garth Rasband.

Another important governmental function in Heber, though it began at first as a private need, is operation of the Heber City Cemetery.

When the east part of the townsite was surveyed in 1859 an area near the foothills in the north-east part of the valley was set aside for burial plots. During that same year an infant daughter of James and Sariah Cook died and was the first person to be buried in the area. Later that year, John Carlile was injured while crossing Provo River and died in September. He became the first adult to be buried in the cemetery.

Busy pioneer settlers had little time and even less money to maintain and beautify the graveyard as it was then called, and so it was just used as needed. Sagebrush and weeds usually covered the area during the summer, and snows and frozen ground presented another problem during winter months.

As more deaths occurred the city government took more active control over the cemetery operation and began a regular program of upkeep. The small section originally set aside for the cemetery soon became inadequate, and John Duke and his wife, Martha, heeding the problem, deeded to the city a large tract of land adjoining the cemetery. In 1940 still another tract, south of the cemetery, was purchased by the city to add to the area of the cemetery. These burial lots were to have perpetual care.

In recent years the city has installed water lines throughout the cemetery to insure green grass and have hard-surfaced the roads making travel within the cemetery much easier. These improvements have also spurred individuals on to beautification of individual plots. Beds of flowers have



Cressie Lindsay Duke



Adolphus R. Duke